

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

United States of America

v.

Criminal No. 10-cr-146-01-PB

Roney White

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

In accordance with Section 3142(f) of the Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3141 et seq., a hearing was conducted on October 6, 2010, for the purpose of determining whether to detain defendant, Roney White, who has been indicted on a charge of distribution of cocaine base ("Crack") in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1).

Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(b), a court, in making a determination regarding detention, must evaluate the risk of the defendant's flight, the risk to the safety of any other person, and the risk to the safety of the community. In circumstances when detention is not mandated by the court, the court is nonetheless empowered to impose conditions on release. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c).

Pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g), a court, in assessing the risks noted in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(b), shall consider the following: (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense charged; (2) the weight of the evidence as to guilt; (3) the history and

characteristics of the accused, including family ties, past history, financial resources and employment; and (4) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be posed by a release.

During the course of a hearing conducted pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142, the government retains the burden of persuading the court that "no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the defendant's presence at trial." United States v. Perez-Franco, 839 F.2d 867, 870 (1st Cir. 1988) (quoting United States v. Palmer-Contreras, 835 F.2d 15, 17-18 (1st Cir. 1987)); United States v. Patriarca, 948 F.2d 789, 793 (1st Cir. 1991). For its part, the government is required to offer clear and convincing evidence of dangerousness; and a preponderance of the evidence to prove risk of flight. See Patriarca, 948 F.2d at 792-93. Facts necessary to find that no combination will reasonably assure the safety of any person and the community require satisfaction of the "clear and convincing" standard. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f) (2).

In specific instances, delineated in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e), a presumption arises that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of a defendant and the safety of the community. Among the instances where a presumption arises is the situation where,

the judicial officer finds that there is probable cause to believe that the person committed an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq)

18 U.S.C. § 3142(e).

In the case at hand, the indictment itself establishes probable cause to believe that the offenses charged have been committed and that the defendant has committed them. Further, the offenses charged against defendant are ones for which a maximum term of imprisonment is ten years or more, as prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. §§ 801 et seq. See United States v. Dillon, 938 F.2d 1412, 1417 (1st Cir. 1991). Thus, Section 3142(e)'s rebuttable presumption that "no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure [defendant's] appearance . . . and the safety of the community . . ." is triggered in this case. See 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e), (f); 21 U.S.C. § 841(b) (1) (C); see also United States v. Vargas, 804 F.2d 157, 162-63 (1st Cir. 1986).

In order to counter the statutory presumption triggered, the defendant must present evidence which demonstrates that "what is true in general is not true in [his] particular case." United States v. Jessup, 757 F.2d 378, 384 (1st Cir. 1985). Notably, the burden is one of production, not of persuasion. Id. at 380-81.

Here, the government and the defendant agreed to conduct the

hearing by offers of proof. The government did not press the argument that defendant is a flight risk. Rather, the government argued that defendant's release would pose a danger to the community. For the reasons stated more fully on the record in this case, I find that the government, aided by the presumption, satisfied its burden of persuading the court by clear and convincing evidence that there are no conditions or combination of conditions that will reasonably assure the safety of the community.

In so finding, the court stated on the record the factors upon which it relied. I summarize those factors below:

- The weight of the evidence against defendant is strong.
- The nature of the offense is one involving drug trafficking (sale of crack cocaine), which is inherently dangerous. The government's proffer included evidence that defendant is also involved in the sale of guns, which, when coupled with his alleged drug trafficking, raises serious concerns for the public's safety.
- Although defense counsel downplayed defendant's criminal record, defendant's record, particularly in light of defendant's age (20 years old) is a strong indication that defendant represents a danger to the community. Defendant's criminal history began at age 17 and has been steady ever

since. Defendant has served house of corrections sentences and terms of probation. Defendant's record reveals two violations of his terms of probation, which violations speak directly to defendant's inability to comply with conditions. Further, the most recent entry on the defendant's criminal record (with the exception of the instant charge) is an arrest on March 18, 2010, on charges of witness tampering. Defendant would have been released on bail conditions in that case. The instant charge alleges that defendant engaged in a drug sale approximately one month after his arrest on the witness tampering charge. Defendant's criminal history is a significant risk factor in favor of a dangerousness finding.

- Finally, defendant is a drug user with unaddressed substance abuse issues. By his own admission, he began smoking marijuana at age 17 and, when not incarcerated, smokes it approximately 3-4 times per week.

Upon full consideration of the arguments offered by the government and defense, and for the reasons stated on the record, I am satisfied that the government has met its burden of persuading the court that defendant's release, even on strict conditions, would pose a serious danger to the community. For the reasons listed supra

and stated on the record, find that there are no conditions or combination of conditions that will assure the safety of the community. Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the defendant be detained pending trial.

The defendant is committed to the custody of the Attorney General or his designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility shall deliver the defendant to the United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding.

SO ORDERED.



Landya B. McCafferty
United States Magistrate Judge

Date: October 7, 2010

cc: Sven D. Wiberg, Esq.
U.S. Attorney
U.S. Probation
U.S. Marshal